

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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1. In 1950, the Soviet Union maintained a concentration camp for international political offenders about one mile southeast of Vereshilev (43-47N 131-54E) Railroad Station. Prisoners were temporarily kept in the camp for investigation and questioning prior to trial. The six Soviet officers at the camp were authorized to interrogate prisoners, but the commandant personally questioned those accused of espionage. Interrogations were held at night for three or four hours, and the most important prisoners were questioned every three days. The Soviet officers limited themselves to prepared interrogation forms, although obstinate prisoners were often kept awake in solitary confinement for two or three days in an attempt to make them confess. Those who confessed were tried for their crimes at Vereshilev, while the others were sent to another camp, which was rumored to be near Khabarovsk (48-30N 135-06E).<sup>1</sup>
2. Of the 150 prisoners in the camp, about 30 percent were Soviets, 25 percent Chinese, 15 percent Koreans, five percent White Russians, 20 percent Japanese, and five percent Mongolians. The Soviet prisoners were accused of having been pro-Japanese during World War II, and the Chinese, for the most part, were former minor officials in the puppet Wang Ching-wei government. The Japanese were former minor officials in the Manchukuo regime, and the Mongolians and the Koreans had been imprisoned for various anti-Soviet activities.
3. The camp commandant was Major Yatrusskiy (fnu), age 37, while the chief warden was a Soviet first sergeant, about 35 years old, known as Kostya (fnu). Two other wardens were Nikolay Suronin and Purikontur (fnu), both sergeants. The chief interpreter was Kim Hyong-uk, 30 years old, a first lieutenant. Altogether there were six Soviet officers, 15 wardens, four laborers, and four other employees such as drivers.<sup>2</sup>
4. Two brick buildings, each 24 yards by nine yards, held the cells. There were six altogether, each accommodating 40 prisoners. Only four cells were full, the others used for solitary confinement purposes. Each cell had a wooden floor,

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one bed holding ten men, a stove, and a toilet. There was one window, a foot and a half square, and a 20 watt bulb which was kept burning day and night. The entire camp was surrounded by a wire fence with three guard posts placed at intervals.

5. The prisoners wore the same clothes they had when they entered the camp, but all their personal possessions were taken away from them. Each person was issued one blanket and one sheet. The cells were searched every three days by the guards. There were no medical facilities, and a doctor was called only when a prisoner was so ill that medical help could do him no good.
6. For breakfast, prisoners received 120 grams of bread, a bowl of water, and 15 grams of sugar; and for lunch and dinner, 150 grams of bread and a bowl of water. Soviet prisoners in large gangs worked in the fields of nearby farms during the spring and summer. They received five additional grams of sugar and a bowl of meat soup.
7. The other prisoners were left to themselves and were not given any political indoctrination or books to read. They talked among themselves, although it was forbidden and those who were caught were removed to another cell. Once a week they were taken outside to get some sun, but they received no other exercise. The general conversation among the prisoners was anti-Soviet in character.
8. Some of the prisoners in the camp were identified as, Khurikov (fnu), 55, a pastor in Harbin before his arrest; Sin Chong-kun, 42, a pastor of a church in Sinchon (37-52N 125-20E); and Lieutenant General Chin (fnu), 45, an officer under the Wang Ching-wei regime.

25X1A. Comment. A Soviet concentration camp 90 miles south of Khabarovsk at Khazhamskaya was reported 25X1A

25X1A2. Comment. These names were received in Korean phonetic form. The versions given here are possible Russian approximations.

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